

Do you have any additional comments? Do you have any advice for current statistics students?

Build strong foundations on statistics and probability before jumping into machine learning and modeling. Learn to see the bigger picture and not just focus on modeling. Modeling is a small part of a Data Scientist's job. The larger part of the job is understanding the problem and communicating effectively the solutions as actionable insights.

Lots of nonsensical group work for the sake of group work. Make sure you work with the most capable students. Chances are they aren't sitting left or right of you. Their lack of preparedness has lots of power over your learning. Be selective.

Utilize as much materials and resources at your disposal. As a foreigner, don't be shy to approach for help. Try to get as much hands on experience, such as research work. Network.

It's hard to break into the data science field if you are not competent in Python.

Also received PhD in environmental science concurrently with Master's in statistics.

Good luck! Where ever you land, they will be lucky to have you. It's easy once you get a job.

Don't give up on looking for jobs. It's a number's game. Apply as many as possible until you find the one.

Practice with real data sets and post your work on GitHub (even if it's just EDA).

Determine the specific area of statistics (or related field) you want to be in, and then learn everything you can about that area and do projects outside of just schoolwork to show initiative and set yourself apart.

:) Get vaccinated.

Start job apps early!

Learn Python.

find another field to apply your favorite stat.method

If possible, I do recommend completing a masters degree before embarking on the PhD. It will provide additional background and allow you to explore research interests before you take on the doctoral degree.

Get comfortable communicating about statistical insights, it's no use if you can't tell other people about what you discover.

Job hunting is extremely difficult if you are not a US citizen or green card holder.

Machine Learning is very important.

I chose the field of statistics because I had no idea what I wanted to do after graduation. Statistics was a set of tools that you could use in any industry/sector. However, I have found that not having a real good idea of where I wanted to be has led me down career paths that have not been ideal. There are plenty of people who want to hire statisticians without understanding/respecting what it is that we actually do. Be cautious of this on your job search.

Learn more data engineering and modern programming workflows. research in fields that are independently inaccessible (e.g., SAS and biostatistics with real clinical data). Remember when working with computer scientists and programmers you work in a workflow and understanding agile, programming documentation conventions, and code presentation are valuable skills.

While many of my classmates have also obtained their master's degree in statistics, it is difficult for them to get their start in the field of data science and data analytics. Only a small percentage (~20% or 5 out of 25) have obtained field-related full-time employment. I would be very curious to know what the American Statistical Association would recommend to make my classmates (and myself) more competitive. Our graduate school was [redacted school name] (most students would like to stay in the area) and the related job market is still seemingly affected by covid. My email address is [redacted] and I would love to hear more information.

For NY students, the price for [redacted] education is great, but overall I would not really recommend.

Statistical learning theory is very important to understand recent neural network architectures. Working on distributed computing, cloud is also essential.

If you are going into academia, you NEED strong recommendation letters. Ask questions in class, go to office hours, email your professors thanking them for teaching the class, talk to professors about research opportunities.

Look outside of your major for cool classes, projects, or relationships with professors

I would strongly recommend an intro to a strongly -typed object-oriented-programming language early in your career / as a pre-req to statistics programs. Ultimately there's a lot of overlap with computer science types, and a lot of programming structure & thinking is not covered during stats coursework.

I earned my Masters of Statistics while concurrently earning my doctorate in Educational Psychology. I am now employed as an educational data analysts, which combines skills from both programs.

Learn to CODE!

Choose a different major

Machine learning, deep learning is also part of Statistics. Please include them in course works as optional at least, for more employment opportunities. Statistics department does not have to restrict itself to traditional statistics only.

I don't do much actual statistics work, though I test statistical models regularly, so understanding what they do.

Make sure to apply to a wide variety of internships and excel at those. Much more important for your future career than the degree.

Having a strong math/stats background pays off immediately. It allows you to think critically and generalizes well to other problems. My advice for graduating students for immediate success is to work on programming (R, Python, and SQL) and business skills

Take programming classes seriously and learn how to effectively debug code and lookup solutions using readily available materials such as SAS documentation, etc. Never be afraid to ask questions, but try

finding solutions on your own first. You will inevitably be asked to do a programming task you have never tackled before. Being able to learn independently, with minimal assistance, is a skill you will need.

You have to be proactive from day 1 about preparing yourself for industry. Make sure that you are paying attention to the skills that your target industry is looking for as well as other industries where your skills might be of use. Also make sure to network outside of your university and with other STEM organizations.

Take courses on big data and general programming, statistical programming and statistical-ML is not enough nowadays. Additionally, I would not recommend Biostats unless you like writing because there's tons of it in the real world. Also, ironically because of this, DS/ML are more "statistical" than biostats. People in industry biostats are more focused on QC/validation and clin trials and writing protocols not on the weeds of the data. That is more DS/ML

I had originally acquired a degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering at [redacted]. My bachelor's in Statistics at [redacted] came later, in 2013. Multiple bachelor's degree-holders are likely rare, but wanted to provide the full picture for your data.

N/A

Learn the main languages for the industry you want to work in

Whether or not you're still in school, make sure that learning doesn't end with coursework or the primary objectives of your research. Specifically, continually try to improve your coding skills, ability to work with new software, understanding of new study designs and statistical methods, writing skills, presentation skills, management skills, having difficult conversations in the workplace, etc. To me, this trait has best distinguished people who are successful in their statistical careers.

I relied heavily on the professional experience that I had prior to going back to school for my job search. I found that everyone at my degree program was more focused on finding entry level positions, and anything outside of that was beyond their scope.

-Advice 1: know the business first before jumping into the data pool, otherwise you are easily cheated and manipulated. -Advice 2: There is always a trade-off when doing things in the corporate as company is for profit, not always for the optimization of

It's never too early to start job searching - I wanted a job by graduation (May), and I thought that starting in February 2020 would be fine, and then a global pandemic happened

The advanced mathematics and statistics methods deserved more attention and time than application.

Educate yourself outside of the classroom. Few items I learned in school have helped me in my career. Getting a job in statistics/biostatistics/data science seems impossible. Overall the program was a waste of my time and money.

Gain any experiences possible to ensure you can land a job after graduation

Grad school was the worst part of my life so far, and it did not need to be that way. There were times when I felt that the professors were massively non-empathetic and had complete disregard for student

wellbeing or success. I wish I would have pushed back harder so future students didn't need to suffer the way I did.

After graduating, realizing just how unimportant schools rankings are with respect to the non-academic job market. It doesn't matter where you get your MS or PhD in Biostatistics if your goal is industry.

Try to do as many internships as possible and participate in research because that was a huge factor in securing a job afterward and putting me ahead of other candidates

Please make use of the American Statistical Association's mentoring services. I was a recipient of an ASA award and Diversity Workshop Mentoring Program graduate in my MS tenure and it made all the difference in helping me figure out where I wanted to go with my degree.

I suggest everyone who is studying or doing research in this field think about three simple things: to be honest, what is statistics? What kind of problems can be solved by statistics? What is the natural fact of random?

Begin private consulting ASAP. Building a track record with clients can lead to great opportunities and letters of recommendation based on real world experience that is far more valuable than a capstone project or faculty recommendation if you are targeting industry. Also, read contracts carefully and become familiar with how to navigate having multiple NDAs and what work for hire is. If you begin to work in machine learning and AI students need to know how to protect themselves when working on projects that are work made for hire as well as understanding software licensing law well enough to know what the deliverable is and whether R or Python, etc. is the best option for a given project and what the limitations are around using SAS, even if they purchased a student license.

Study fundamental computer science courses, such as Data Structures and Algorithms. Many companies emphasize more software engineering than statistics for data scientist position.

plan early and be aware of the job market if you want to work directly after you finish the program

As of March 2021 I held the same position I had from when I graduated the program. Since then I have started a new position that has higher pay and does utilize several skills learned in the program. As such it's hard for me to know how well prepared I am since I started a couple weeks ago. I would not have received the job without the degree.

Advice: Get some "real world" experience! Things are messy in the real world and you need to get a hands on feel for just how things can go wrong, and what actually makes sense.

Get a job or internship in analytics. If you can't, build a nice portfolio of analytics projects with a variety of problems and technologies to showcase capabilities. Having a degree is not sufficient.

Getting into a stats job is pretty fun